

**HEALTH COMMITTEE
of the
Suffolk County Legislature
Capital Budget Minutes**

Minutes

A special meeting of the Health Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **May 29, 2001**, at 1:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Legislators Ginny Fields - Chairperson

Legislators Brian Foley - Vice-Chair

Legislators Maxine Postal

Members Not Present:

Legislators Martin Haley

Also in Attendance:

Paul Sabatino - Counsel to the Legislature

Fred Pollert - Director/Budget Review Office

Jim Spero - Deputy Director/Budget Review Office

Mary Howe - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office

Ellen Martin - Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna

Chris Reimann - Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna

Todd Johnson - County Executive's Office/IR

Susan Hodosky - County Executive's Budget Office

Dr. Clare Bradley - Commissioner/Department of Health Services

Len Marchese - Department of Health Services/Finance

Rick Meyer - Department of Health Services/Administrative Services

Theresa Pace - Department of Health Services/Bureau of Inf. Tech.

All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 1:14 P.M. *)

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Commissioner, would you like to begin?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Okay. What I would like to do is go through the Capital Budget request.

The first one is for the Forensic Science Laboratory which is the Crime Lab and the environmental protection -- Environmental Health Lab that are both collocated in the Medical Examiner's Office. This has been an ongoing project, there have been some minor increases for 2001. As I said, it's been going on for several years so after several years of not being able to move forward, our needs have increased even further along the way. The original problem with this proposal is it is in conflict with the 4th Precinct expansion and they were both being proposed at almost the same time.

LEG. FOLEY:

The DA wanted some more property as well, there's actually three buildings designed for the same land in that part of the North County Complex.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Right, and then there is the proposed North County Complex study to study and then to make a decision.

LEG. FOLEY:

Right.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

This is just a picture of the Medical Examiner's Office. This is our request that the County recommended and Budget Review's comments and I think we're all waiting for the evaluation of the North County Complex before we can --

LEG. FOLEY:

What input are you having, Commissioner, on the North County Complex?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

I can't speak for my staff but my understanding is that it hasn't started yet.

MR. SPERO:

The resolution is currently on the table.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

It hasn't started.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay. Once it starts what's your understanding of your role as the Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

To provide information about what our needs are going forward.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

The conflict with the Police and also with the District Attorney has been around for a while now.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Could you just try that one?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

The conflict has been there for a couple of years and we have kind of been on hold until they made a decision. We looked at the services that we have in the medical Examiner's Office and if there's anything that we can pull out of there so that we wouldn't have to do the expansion there. And we've thought about this, we haven't finalized anything but we but we talked about possibly taking the Public Environmental Health Lab out of the Medical Examiner's Office and possibly trying to collocate it in Yaphank with the Vector Control Lab. We just started thinking that because after several years we realized that the North County Complex, they may say, you know, "We're going to let the police expand, the Health Department is going to have to find other accommodations." So we've just started exploring that and we will research it.

The next project is 3205, the purchase and installation of equipment for Emergency Medical Services to lower equipment costs on the current defibrillators that we're purchasing. Our costs are actually down 467,000 and part of the request is for some training units. We have expanded the training that we have been providing to the volunteers. There have also been courses that have gone from basic life support course, so part of the funding would be to equip those courses. This is just pictures of two of the defibrillators that are currently being used in Suffolk County that the -- by the volunteers that the County is purchasing for them. This is the requested recommended and Budget Office recommended funding for this proposal. And I think there might have been a typo in Budget Review and I think their recommendation was all to leave it in 2002 which is what we feel we need to relist those outdated machines. Some of them the batteries are falling out so there is a need to replace some that are currently out there.

4022 is a Capital Project for addition to the Tri-Community Health Center. This project will expand the health center by about 3,500 square feet. In addition to the expansion, this will also allow us to renovate some of the current buildings. Sometimes we get ourselves into that, when we expand we sometimes forget to renovate the old part of the building and the increased funding will allow us to do that. It will also address the HVAC issue and there are several Tri-Community and method modification the experience the safety issues at the same time for the least disruption of the services of the

health center. This is requested and the County Executive recommended, on some of them I did not include Budget Review I wasn't clear exactly what they were recommending, when it was there I included it. I really didn't have time to coordinate with Budget Review.

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4055 is purchase of equipment for health centers and it's for ongoing replacement and for new equipment based on technical advances. These are the recommended figures by the Health Department by the recommended by the County Executive and Budget Review. Some of the money that we originally had included for 2002 was for Coram and that we're not going forward with that the funding, that is being recommended it's probably adequate.

LEG. FIELDS:

What about for the Bay Shore improvements?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Excuse me?

LEG. FIELDS:

What did you have for Bay Shore, do you know what that covered?

MR. MARCHESE:

There are schedules for each of the health centers.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Terry is here.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

This is Terry Pace and she has the specifics for the Capital Budget requests.

LEG. FOLEY:

What is your last name?

MS. PACE:

Pace.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

She asked about Bay Shore.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Just since we spoke about it recently.

MS. PACE:

The 2002 request included only one piece of equipment for Bay Shore and that was Endoscopic Infection Control.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Okay, improvements at the John J. Foley Skilled Nursing Facility. This has been an ongoing Capital Project and it actually is a continuation of the original capital project that created the new facility and it's to address safety and security issue as well as correction for the expanded physical therapy unit. The new request for 2002 also included some expansion requests for the Adult Day Health Care Program as well as the Alzheimer's Working Garden for those residents and registrants who are in the facility who have Alzheimer's Disease. This is a picture of the facility. This is the funding

requested and recommended and the funded for the physical therapy expansion was removed from the recommended Capital Budget.

This is just some pictures of different places within the facility that are overcrowded that triggered our request for different parts of the Capital Project. This is the chapter essential which because of lack of storage is being used for storage of supplies. This is part of the adult day-care area which includes kitchen and office space. This is -- again, the kitchen area is part of recreational office space, this is meal time in the adult day-care program which is one of the programs -- one of the few programs that we run that is revenue generated.

LEG. FIELDS:

Right.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

So is the physical therapy, right; don't you get that back?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

What happened with physical therapy is as soon as we went into the new facility we had increased number of beds. We found that the space that was originally planned was not adequate, and our occupancy went up even more when we decertified our beds because they were never filled. And then with the adult day-care program it's a medical model day though many of those also need physical therapy so the space that we have currently is not adequate.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

And we're looking to go expand that space?

LEG. FOLEY:

Any reasons given by office to why these expansions were not noted in the proposed budget?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

I don't know.

LEG. FOLEY:

Could we just hear, Madam Chair, from the Budget Review Office? When you go to page 229 of your evaluation -- I think it works now. All right, if we could -- Madam Chair, can we hear from the Budget Review Office about the evaluation of these two Capital Projects? If you look at page 229, the three diamonds -- and this is important for the limited members who are here -- but as proposed by the County Executive, the absence of these projects reverses the existing Legislative policy. It eliminates funding previously approved for the project and offers the barest minimum of funding. But Jim, if we could hear from you about this and also about the point that would we not -- wouldn't most of the capital costs for undertaking these projects be assumed, if you will, by Medicaid reimbursements?

MR. SPERO:

Yes, they would be. It would go into the day's base for the future correlation of Medicaid money.

LEG. FOLEY:

So there really would be very little cost to the local taxpayer.

MR. SPERO:

Not long-run, no.

LEG. FOLEY:

Madam Chair, I know there's an Omnibus Committee, but also I think as a policy statement, I think we as a committee, being we're the two of the committee, that we should have a stand-alone resolution that would put these back into the program as recommended by the Budget Review Office.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Absolutely. Anything revenue generating, if it's not part of the Omnibus then you can put the Chair and the Co-Chair on as a stand-alone.

MS. PASTORE:

Is yours -- can you try it?

LEG. FOLEY:

Yeah. I think it's --

MS. PASTORE:

I think we fixed it.

LEG. FOLEY:

You fixed it, very good. Now, it's also interesting, Madam Chair, as far as these two projects, not only is it revenue producing but it more than offsets the additional operating costs that would be incurred by expanding the building. So there's actual a net plus of revenues flow into the County from these two projects, from both the physical therapy as well as the adult day-care facility. That also includes a large meeting room as well, correct?

MR. SPERO:

Yes.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay. Thank you.

MR. SPERO:

It would also include the garden, the alzheimer's garden.

LEG. FOLEY:

Oh yeah. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Is your microphone on? Yes, good.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

The next project, 4061, is the Patient Care Health Center Information System and this has been in the Capital Project for several years. We have gone live in two of the health centers, the Brentwood Health Center and also the Shirley Health Center without problems, we're very

happy to report that. Right now we are not asking for any more money, the project is on time and appears to be under budget; since I can say that now, I will say it now.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

May I ask a question? Since you started the system over in Brentwood, it's probably about a year now or six months?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

No, March, February? March 3rd.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Have -- maybe it's too -- never mind, it's too early to see if revenue has increased, which it should, I would think, because you're on that system.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Sure. And just to reiterate, it's scheduling, it's billing and accounts receivable. We will be rolling out an electronic medical record, we will be working with our Managed Care plan to do those type of reports that we need, and this is just to reiterate that we're not asking for any more money.

Okay. Now I have a series of MIS requests for different divisions within the Health Department. The first one is for a Mental Health Information System. The project provides funds for the computerization and other upgrades for the Division of Community and Mental Hygiene Services and it's to deal with existing State and Federal regulations. It will address computerization needs in the Camera Unit which is a Case Management Unit and the Assisted Out-patient Treatment Program which is Kendra's Law. These are the -- our requested and the County Exec recommended and Budget Office recommended funding levels.

Public Health Nursing, Patient Record System, this is going to be providing funding for the development and implementation of a computerized patient record system. We started really started with patient care when we did the IDX project for the health centers knowing that all of the other clinical divisions within the department would also have to be addressed in terms of their information system needs. We have a current contract with Delta which we're not planing to continue, they're our current data processing vendor for public health nursing. Again, here are the requested and recommended funding levels.

There is a theme throughout Budget Review's recommendation about whether different projects should be bonded or General Funded. And from the Health Department's perspective, we don't care, it's not an issue for us, it's an issue for the Exec and the Leg. The only area where we would be impacted is if we tried to take something that had

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normally been funded in one budget and tried to move it to the other, especially if you go from Capital to Operating because of the caps.

Okay. This is the Environmental Health Sanitarian.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Wait; Budget Review?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Yes.

MR. SPERO:

Just a general comment on this issue, because it impacts many departments. We revisited the 5-25-5 law and in rereading the law we found out that the minimum criteria is for a Capital Project to have a useful life of more than five years; this means that virtually all equipment purchases, whether they're trucks, computers, surveillance vans, prisoner transportation vans all have to be purchased on a pay-as-you-go basis

MR. POLLERT:

In addition, what's important is that there are funds in the 2001 Operating budget to do this as a pay-as-you-go, so it will be necessary to allocate a portion of the funds if you want to move this project ahead. If you don't use those funds, you're going to slow the project by one year because you won't be able to bond the project.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So how would we do that; that would be a --

MR. POLLERT:

Just to do a resolution.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

A stand-alone then or a stand-alone that reflects that.

LEG. FOLEY:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay, maybe we should do that, then; right?

MR. POLLERT:

It would be a normal resolution which takes place during the year. It can either be proposed by the County Executive or the County Legislature, you can do it four times during the year.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So we don't have to do it right now then.

MR. POLLERT:

No, you don't.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay.

LEG. FOLEY:

The last chance will be September.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Okay, this is the laptop program for the sanitarians that work in Environmental Protection, the main use for this will be the inspection of the restaurants. These are the recommended funding levels.

Okay, Environmental Quality Information System; this is not environmental protection, this is Environmental Quality Division. There are several components to this request, one is for a Document Imaging System. We find that the paperwork associated with the oversight and monitoring and permitting is overwhelming us in terms of the storage of the paper so we would like to purchase the document imaging. We have had a long time experience with Blacksmith Database and we would like to move to an oracle} database which we feel would be more user friendly.

We'd also like to interconnect the different offices of Environmental Quality as they work hand-in-hand on different projects, whether it's

the sewage people in Riverhead, the water people in Hauppauge or the people in Farmingville. So it really would be helpful to the efficiency of what they do if they could communicate through the computer, through their information system, through the lines.

LEG. FOLEY:

Just on that point, Madam Chair. This document imaging, is that similar to what the County Clerk wants to do with his shop? Is there a way that, since both departments are getting similar equipment, that the Clerk's Office could extend that service to the Health Department?

MR. POLLERT:

No. One of the difficulties is that the Clerk has had major problems with the implementation of his system. He entered into a contract I believe with the Xerox Corporation, they subcontracted, the subcontractor was in default and the system has been plagued with numerous problems and numerous delays as well. They would probably be better off with a turn-key operation which is specifically designed just for this application.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Can I ask a question? On page 239 you talk about \$85,000 was appropriated and will be used to replace the 17 laptops with new ones; when you get new laptops, what does the Health Department do with the old ones?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

I don't think we've ever been in that position before. I think this is probably the first time --

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. Then what -- do you have any idea what you would do with those old laptops? Is there any other need in the Health Department to use them?

MR. MARCHESE:

The operating systems are slow, that's the problem.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Yeah. I guess we'd have to do an assessment on the laptops that aren't

recommended for this project to see if there's a need somewhere else.

MR. POLLERT:

The County does have a resolution on the books and a Local Law on the books that if a department surpluses out computer equipment, it's the responsibility of Data Processing to collect the equipment, to inventory it and then to make it available to all County departments as well as not-for-profit institutions.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Even if -- what about the suggestion that that department wants to use it within their department?

MR. POLLERT:

Clearly they have the first draw on the equipment.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay, thank you.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Okay. Here are two more information system requests, 4068, 4074. This is also for the Division of Community Mental Hygiene, this is Methadone Maintenance and Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services. Here are the recommended funding requests.

4076 is a replacement of the mammography van. This is the first mammography van that we have had since 1999. The van is being purchased this year.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Can we go back to page 245?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Improvements to health centers for infection control, you skipped over that one.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I think in some of the buildings we actually do need to have this infection control, and yet it looks like it wasn't requested.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Well, it depends on if it's a County owned or County leased building. If it's a County leased building, my understanding is these things have to be done through the lease, although Budget Review would want to speak to that.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

But what if we have a 30 year lease or a 20 year lease and we need to really determine that County facility needs infection control, aren't we jeopardizing the public health, you know, by not doing that?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Most of the facilities either have been addressed or are being addressed. The one that has been an issue is Touro, that facility, most of the others have been addressed. Shirley was done when they did the renovation, Tri and Riverhead are here, Tri-Community will be done with the renovation, so really it's been Touro. And since it was a relatively short-term lease, being that we were only going to be there for seven years -- go ahead, Fred.

MR. POLLERT:

That's correct. Touro with the TB visitation rate tended to be most of the other health centers. It was our recommendation at the time of the lease that the landlord put in the negative pressure rooms as well as the infection control, that was not included in the lease even though it was our recommendation that the County could upfront the cost. So the Touro Center is not completed on page 246. The reason that the funding is not shown in the Capital Program is that all the funding has already been appropriated. They currently have a fee balance of \$1.5 million so the funds are currently in place, it just has to become a priority of the Department of Public Works to move the project ahead.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So then we don't want to go to Touro and tell them that we want that additional change in the --

MR. SPERO:

You can't use the building.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay, thanks.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

No new funds are requested for this project. Here's a picture of our mammography van.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Can I ask you a question?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

I heard the other day that Nassau County bought a brand new van at double the cost that it should cost and when they bought the van they

made it higher than the last van and, therefore, it cannot now go under certain bridges.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

It probably can't go on the parkways.

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CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Yeah. So I was just wondering, did we --

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

I don't believe we can go on the parkways either, I don't think we've even been able to go on the parkways because of the height of our van. So we have to use other east/west routes. I'd have to double check, that's my remembrance of when we got the van originally.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

And then I have one other question about the van, and this is because I tried to get the van in my office one day, which I did. But I wondered the use of the van, do we -- how often do we use it, do we use it every day, five days a week, and is there a way of using it on weekends and putting it in different areas of different communities that we know are not utilizing it?

Because if you talk about the working poor, for example, those women are probably working from nine to five, and I don't know when the van is available but I'm going to assume it's available nine to five. So there is a certain population that's absolutely unable to utilize the van, so.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

I'm not sure what the schedule is now. Actually there are two vans. I don't believe they operate on Saturday but I think that's a great idea and I think there are a lot of people that have employment but it doesn't cover -- it may cover certain types of conditions if they're lucky enough to have insurance, but often times it doesn't cover the preventive things. So why don't we go back and look to try to do some of that, I think that's great.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

All right, 4079 is equipment for the Environmental Health Laboratory and similar to the health centers, it's to replace out dated and non functioning equipment.

LEG. FOLEY:

Ken Hill?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Ken Hill. Here's the requested and recommended funding levels. Look at that, everyone was -- oh no, not quite. We won't talk about 2004 today.

Construction of Minimum Security Medical Unit in Yaphank, this again has been an ongoing need for Health Services. And when we have been combined with Corrections, we seem to be left to the side for our medical unit needs, so this year we went out and said we wanted our own capital project for this. And I think the better thing to do for the County was probably to do it together, but we need to have our interests addressed going forward. The medical unit in Yaphank is deplorable and it needs remodeling, renovation as quickly as possible.

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LEG. FOLEY:

Question on that, Madam Chair. Page 251, Description of Project as proposed, "Proposed program does not establish a separate project for jail medical." A hundred and fifty-six thousand is included in the adopted and modified 2001 Capital Project -- Budget for the planning for the expansion of Jail Medical. The funding of 1.7 for expansion is not included in CP3008, Jail Utilization Study." Where does that study stand with the Budget Review Office, where does that study stand regarding the new facility at Yaphank?

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Has that question come up at every single budget meeting today?

MR. POLLERT:

Yes.

LEG. FOLEY:

Where does it stand?

MR. POLLERT:

The County never did a plan but nevertheless, there is funding --

LEG. FOLEY:

Oh, I see. So the County has never done the -- did we appropriate the monies?

MR. POLLERT:

Yes, the funds were appropriated by the County Legislature. There was a --

LEG. FOLEY:

What year, when did we appropriate that?

MR. POLLERT:

I believe it was 1997, perhaps 1998. There was a legislative resolution that established a committee chaired by Joe Caracappa.

LEG. FOLEY:

Uh-huh.

MR. POLLERT:

The Sheriff's Office was supposed to do the RFP.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay.

MR. POLLERT:

They submitted the RFP, there were concerns raised by the Law Department, the Sheriff's Office asked for participation of the Law Department in the RFP and they never received a response so the RFP never went out. So the funding is --

LEG. FOLEY:

Who never received a response from whom?

MR. POLLERT:

The Sheriff's Department never received a response from the Law Department requesting their assistance to correct problems with the RFP that were identified by the Law Department.

LEG. FOLEY:

And that correspondence dates back to '99 or 2000?

MR. POLLERT:

It dates back I believe to '99.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay, go ahead.

MR. POLLERT:

There is no completed study at this point in time, it was a Legislative initiative. The intent of the study was to identify both the population forecasts for the jail as well as the type of jail facility to be constructed, that is whether or not it should be maximum, medium or minimum security as well as what the mix should be between both the male and the female number of cells so the funding has been included but there is no study to detail what type of construction is to take place and part of the construction does not include the inclusion of the Jail Medical Unit, that's not included in the cost of the new jail.

LEG. FOLEY:

We want to include that. I mean, I think the more comprehensive approach is to fold the jail medical into the larger project, but at this point the larger project is easy essentially in limbo until there is some understanding or cooperation between the Sheriff's Office, they have been endeavoring to have some cooperation from the County Attorney's Office. But, okay, thanks.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

We had another Capital Project request for a modification for compliance with ADA. Several of our buildings are still not handicapped accessible and we had been unsuccessful in getting those modifications done previously so we had put in a request for a Capital Project to do these renovations. And I believe that the end note on this is that the Capital Project that has existed in Public Works has adequate funds to address our issues, so we will retry that route to get our buildings handicapped accessible.

This is entrance to Building 159 in the North County Complex and although there is a ramp and the head of that program is on crutches, but the door, he can get up to the door but he can't get in the door because they're not handicapped accessible, our health centers are not handicapped accessible, several of them. So we will work with Public Works to try get these modifications done as soon as possible.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Isn't it a law that we have to be?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

I believe so.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

So how could the County Executive's Budget Office north include that as part of the --

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Well, what they're saying is there is a Capital Project in Public Works and that it should be done through that Capital Project. Now, we had -- our understanding was that there wasn't adequate funds there for us to get our buildings modified; it now appears that there is adequate funds so we will go that route again.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

It would seem to me that we have to get go that route.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

And that, you know, the money has to be available. If we can -- how do we provide a health clinic and not have it handicapped accessible? Okay.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Okay, Vector Control. Even prior to West Nile Virus, our physical plant needs for the Arthropod, the Vector Control Lab were not adequate; when the Malaria came and the West Nile came, we realized how truly inadequate they were. And because of issues with turnaround time with the State Health Department, we had explored doing our own, mosquito testing, so instead of having to wait several weeks to get, mosquito results back that we could do it ourselves.

In addition, with the identification of West Nile, the State has now capped the number of mosquitoes that we can send for testing because in the past we were only competing with Nassau County, they were the only other County that was sending mosquitoes on a regular basis, now we're competing with all 52 counties and the State has capped the number of mosquitoes that we can send. Last year we were over the cap about 85% of the time during mosquito season. So we explored actually doing the testing on our own and then said -- we took a step back and said let's see if there is another route within Suffolk County to get this done and we went to Stony Brook and Stony Brook said, "We have a facility here that could be utilized," and we are going down the route of entering into a contract or an agreement, a cooperative agreement with Stony Brook to make use of their Biosafety Level III Laboratory so that we can test our own mosquitoes.

In addition to that, we have Scott Campbell, Dr. Campbell who runs the Vector Control lab does not have adequate space to do what he does totally separate from the testing of mosquitoes, this has to do with the collecting of the mosquitoes, the identification. I have some

pictures -- no, I don't. So in addition to working with Stony Brook, we also need expanded Vector Control laboratory space.

LEG. FOLEY:
By how much?

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COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:
How much space do we need?

LEG. FOLEY:
What was the request from Dr. Campbell to your office as to what additional space was needed?

MR. MARCHESE:
The total building is 13,000 square feet.

LEG. FOLEY:
That's the total building, but the --

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:
The request?

LEG. FOLEY:
The issue here has been around what Dr. Campbell would need for his -- and while you're looking for that, let me -- is that the equivalent to a P-2 Lab?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:
Yes, he has a P-2 Lab now.

LEG. FOLEY:
I understand that.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:
And yes, we need expanded space for what he does now and it would be a P- Lab also. It's a P-3 Lab at Stony Brook.

LEG. FOLEY:
I understand that. Is there a reason why we can't have Stony Brook do some of the P -- just to get into this language, into the P-2 Laboratory work as well as the P-3?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Well, actually it's going to be Health Department staff that's going to be doing the work in the P-3 Lab at Stony Brook.

LEG. FOLEY:

That's fine. Is there a reason why we couldn't have them do the additional P-2 work up there, you're going to have to expand it another four and a half, \$5 million?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

You're asking me if we could rent space at Stony Brook to do our testing?

LEG. FOLEY:

Right.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

I didn't ask them, I never asked them that. This was a P-3 Lab that wasn't being utilized. So we could explore that, I haven't done that.

LEG. FOLEY:

I mean, if that could be explored, Madam Chair. Again, we had discussed this in Space Management where an addition could be constructed next to the existing lab, but just reading through the analysis today and hearing the testimony, it just came to my mind that perhaps -- perhaps now, and it's worth looking into -- since there is this agreement or soon to be completed agreement between Stony Brook and Suffolk County for a P-3 lab facilities, can't we use some other additional space there for the P-2 and thereby -- you know, some of that work would still be done in Yaphank but the remainder would be done up in Stony Brook.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

One of the downsides to that is it would totally segregate us from Public Works Vector Control and normally the two do work hand in hand throughout the year but mainly through the season. The only downside to that, but we'll explore it, is separating from Dominick and Vector Control.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Wouldn't it be better to have it separated than not have it at all?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Well, that's why I have a Capital Project to get an expanded lab, I'm not proposing not having it at all.

LEG. FOLEY:

Right. They want to expand the lab but when you review this and one of the things that we had discussed at Space Management, the County Executive proposed two leased sites, both of which were removed from the facility, William Floyd Parkway and Riverhead. But I want to get back to an earlier point that you mentioned, and it is part of the evaluation. Page 243, and I'd like to have your comments, Commissioner, "According to the department, the RFP waiver for the P-3 contract with Stony Brook has been denied by the County Executive. We don't understand the decision. SUNY has the only P-3 lab for the study of human pathogens in the region." Is that your understanding, is that a temporary denial or you -- because in your testimony a few moments ago you mentioned that you expect that there will be an agreement at some point. So square this away for us.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

We actually started working with the County Attorneys on this issue when we realized that we wanted to use Stony Brook for this testing and we felt that we did not need to go via an RFP. Once we had the contract ready to go, we were at that point told that we had to go to the Waiver Committee. So the first comments from the Waiver Committee was that they felt that there were possibly other P-3 labs that could do it and they mentioned --

LEG. FOLEY:

Well, just on that point. I'm sorry -- you probably know what other P-3 labs are available in the area, correct?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Well, the only other one that's local is Plum Island and they won't even test our birds let alone our mosquitoes.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

And you can't take mosquitoes to Plum Island to have them tested, I mean, operationally it just does not --

LEG. FOLEY:

Right. That wasn't enough to persuade the Waiver Committee to approve the waiver?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

That was the first issue and the staff brought that information. The second issue was they said it was -- we didn't need a contract with Stony Brook we needed a cooperative agreement.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

And that as soon as that is done my feeling is that it will go forward. So the County Attorney is finalizing that, they said they would have it finalized today.

LEG. FOLEY:

Cooperative agreement, okay.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

It was of two government agencies, we didn't need a contract.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay. And by not needing a contract, you wouldn't have to go through the waiver process, by not needing a contract.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Correct, I guess.

LEG. FOLEY:

Yeah, I think that's what they're driving at. Okay. Budget Review want to add anything to that?

MR. POLLERT:

No.

LEG. FOLEY:

But if you could look into this idea, all right --

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

Yeah, I will.

LEG. FOLEY:

-- of whether or not they could do some -- not all but some of this

P-2 work up at Stony Brook as well. We'll still look at the issue of whether or not to include it in the Capital Program, but it would be helpful to -- even if you did need additional space for the P-2, could you just give us some idea of the existing conditions at the P-2 Lab in Yaphank?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

As I said, we realized we had space problems even before West Nile. Once -- we share space, Vector Control is very gracious to us and we share space in their building. With the advent of West Nile, Public Works staff I think has gone up about 17, and most of their staff is off-site, our staff has gone up occupy three, we got three new staff people. So whereas we were tight before, we're even tighter now; and I had pictures but they didn't make it into this proposal. If you go through Scott's lab, he has boxes upon boxes, it's just not adequate space for what we need to do, it's very crowded. I mean, I don't know if Budget Review toured the facility, they could probably concur with my comments.

MR. POLLERT:

Yes, that was the reason that we had made the recommendation. This was a Legislative priority and it was our recommendation that the County should fund the construction of a new laboratory, it was discussed in the Space Committee meeting. There will apparently be significant delays if the County decides to undertake the construction itself. Our recommendation was that perhaps we could enter into an agreement with a private firm to construct the space on County-owned land if they can move the project ahead faster than the County can do; that's the same type of negotiation that we entered into with the 7th Precinct that was constructed by Master Breslin. So the County would not lose aid if it was constructed by a third party.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Commissioner Bradley, do you have anything else that you want to add?

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

I went to the end and I think that's it. Is there anymore after that?

MR. MARCHESE:

The environmental.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

The rest of the environmental projects will be addressed tomorrow in the Environmental Committee, so I think that's it.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay, good. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

You're very welcome.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Does anyone else want to address us?

LEG. FOLEY:

Just to continue the discussion of the Arthropod disease facility, if

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we do nothing, if we make no budget amendments to the proposed Capital Program, Fred, there won't be any, monies available for this facility?

MR. POLLERT:

That's correct.

LEG. FOLEY:

Where does it stand now, are there monies -- under the current three year program, under what we had adopted last year for the succeeding three years, were there monies placed into the budget last year?

MR. POLLERT:

No, there were not. The new titles were added to the Operating Budget but no funding was requested for the new laboratory. Part of our comments are that it's kind of indicative on the part of the County of the lack of planning where we add staff and then we don't have any spot to put them.

LEG. FOLEY:

But most of that staff is field staff, though.

MR. POLLERT:

That is correct. We also did hire some professional staff as well and it also became a Legislative initiative, but there is no location to have them located.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Have we occupied the Dennison Building completely since Budget Review moved out?

MR. POLLERT:

Yes, we have. We moved in the Emergency Medical group.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

And they've taken up all the space?

MR. POLLERT:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay, thank you.

COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:

And that was a great improvement for that division.

CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:

Okay. Then this meeting should be adjourned. Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 P.M.*)

Legislator Ginny Fields, Chairperson
Health Committee

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